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This document consists of 1 pages

No. 3 of 6 series

2 AUG 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

SUBJECT: Estimate of USSR Capabilities

REFERENCES:

(a)
(b)
(c)
(d)



25X1

1. Reference (a) requests that substantiating evidence be furnished the Navy Department with respect to the belief, as expressed in Reference (b), that "The Soviets have the capability of launching a guided missile with an atomic warhead from a submarine....."

2. Central Intelligence Agency's belief is based, in part, on the information contained in Reference (c), particularly paragraph 2 b (1) (b) 1 and Reference (d), Appendix A, paragraph 2 d. Although the latter estimate is for mid-1951, it is considered the capability noted in paragraph 2 d could exist at the present time since the USSR is known to have had an atomic weapon capability for more than ten months. As noted in Reference (c), even though lacking direct evidence, we must assume that the USSR can have the capability of launching V-1 type missiles from submarines. Evidence of Soviet activity in launching guided missiles from submarines which leads to this assumption is available in the Office of Naval Intelligence.

3. Particular attention is invited to the latter part of paragraph 1 of Reference (b), which discounts the probability of the use of this method of delivery by the USSR due to technical limitations and other more effective means of delivery.

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